

Tapol

British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

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Honorary President: Lord Avebury; Honorary Treasurer: Tom Soper; Organising Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

A.W. Clausen, President,
World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW
Washington DC 20433

10 January 1986

Dear Mr Clausen,

Thank you for the letter of 12 August 1985 sent on your behalf by Ms. Hamilton of the Indonesia Division.

You discuss the birth control in East Timor in terms of Indonesia's large population. But are you not aware that East Timor is illegally occupied by Indonesia, and is not recognised by the UN as part of Indonesia? How can the World Bank justified programs in East Timor in terms of Indonesia's population needs? Indeed, any support for Indonesian projects in East Timor is in conflict with the UN's position on East Timor.

In my letter of 4 June 1985, I referred to a claim by the governor of East Timor, Mario Carrascalao that the Bishop of Dili supports the birth control program. I described that claim as being "too proposterous to be taken seriously". Your reply did not respond to this. I have now received a copy of the Bishop's "written statement" to which Mario Carrascalao was referring. It is in fact a Pastoral Letter on Responsible Parenthood issued last March, a copy of which I enclose.

As you will see, the Bishop has been totally misrepresented by Mr Carrascalao. On the contrary, he strongly criticises the program for a number of reasons, as for instance on page 6 where he states: "We do not approve of this kind of Keluarga Berencana." He spells out the criteria for a program acceptable to the Church and these are clearly at variance with the program being implemented. He also speaks of "giving injections to unaware women" which is not in line with your Bank's policy, stated in your letter, that family planning "should be voluntary and should offer freedom of choice among a range of methods".

You may regard this as being a position taken by the Church and not necessarily the views of the people. You should take into account however that the Timorese live in fear and discomfort (as the Bishop says) and it remains for people like the Head of the Church to articulate their views. May I ask you to comment on this Pastoral Letter and to indicate whether you would not agree that the birth control program in East Timor is an unwarranted imposition on the people of that country. In view of the opinions expressed by the Bishop, would the World Bank now agree to reconsider its support for this program?

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo
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